



School Readiness Initiative

“Program Design and Policies”

**California Children and Families Commission
School Readiness Planning Group
July 19, 2001**



CCFC School Readiness Planning Group

- **Fiscal**
- **Criteria/Eligibility**
- **Evaluation**
- **Technical Assistance**

CCFC School Readiness Planning Group

Representatives:

- **County Commissioners and Executive Directors**
- **Advisory Committee on Diversity**
- **Foundations and other Partners**
- **CCFC Staff**

CCFC Advisory Committee on Diversity

Meeting: June 29, 2001

- Reviewed and provided recommendations on Matching Funds RFF
- Provided recommendations on implementation issues such as standards and strategies, data sources, family engagement, cultural/linguistic appropriateness, assessment issues for children with disabilities and other special needs, research questions, etc.

Fiscal Recommendations

- **How much will we allocate for School Readiness Programs?**
\$200 M over 4 years
- **Do all counties participate?**
Only target counties with eligible schools

Fiscal Recommendations

How should we disburse funds to counties?

Use allocations to determine an individual county's share over 4 year 'launch' period

How should we allocate the funds?

Use a formula that allocates funds based on the blending of county birth rates and the number of students in schools in deciles 1-3 (API) – available when fiscal and quality requirements are met

Fiscal Recommendations

- **Will there be a county match?**

Yes – counties will need to provide a 1:1 match (lesser match as incentive for Stage 1 sites until July 1, 2002 – 50%)

- **Where can county match come from?**

Any source as long as it is a cash commitment

Fiscal Recommendations

Will we provide implementation grants?

Provide between \$25K and \$100K per year in addition to allocation with no local match required

Fiscal Recommendations

- Will there be minimum allocations?

Provide a minimum allocation of
\$100,000

Target Communities

Communities served by schools with Academic Performance Index (API) in deciles 1-3

Estimate:

- 1385 schools
- over 800,000 children
- 85% low income
- 48% English Language Learners
- 75% Latino

Overall 'SR' Principles

- Voluntary family participation
- Family focus and decision-making
- Community investment and design
- Inclusive and culturally competent
- Addresses needs of children with disabilities and other special needs
- Collaboration
- Builds on family and community assets
- Coordinates existing services and infrastructure

Overall 'SR' Principles

- School based or linked
- Plan with connected assessment, prioritized goals, strategies, partners, and evaluation (based on disaggregated data)
- Comprehensive training
- Results based accountability and strong evaluation component
- Systems Integration and redesign
- Standards and research based, plus 'promising practices'

5 Essential and Coordinated)Elements for 'SR'

1. Early Care and Education
2. Parenting/Family Support
3. Health and Social Services
4. Schools' Readiness for Children
5. Site Infrastructure, Evaluation, and Administration

Criteria/Eligibility Recommendations

RFF Matching Funds Grant Application Narrative asks for description of:

- Local partners and collaborative decision-making
- Assessed strengths and needs of children, families and communities
- Expected results
- Current and new strategies for 5 'Essential and Coordinated Elements' plus coordination processes
- Staffing and professional development plans
- Budget: CCFC and Local Matching Funds

Criteria/Eligibility Recommendations

Review Criteria – Stages 1, 2, 3

Categories: 5 Essential and Coordinated Elements
for School Readiness; Staffing and Training;
Collaborative Administration and Governance

Purposes:

1. County Self-Assessment to determine if School Readiness Program is Stage 1, 2, 3
2. Review/Selection Criteria (County and State)

Criteria/Eligibility Recommendations

Review/Selection Process:

- **County Level** – identify, develop, and review potential School Readiness Programs for Stage 1, 2, or 3; secure County CFC and local matching funds
- **State Level** – ensure that fiscal and quality requirements are met for statewide consistency; evaluation/research and training/mentoring needs; allocation of State CCFC funds

Criteria/Eligibility Recommendations

Functions of ‘Very Preliminary Service Levels and Criteria for 5 Essential Elements’:

- Provides examples of standards to guide practice and assist county-level development and implementation
- Gives counties flexibility with using and adapting strategies to reflect local strengths and needs
- Will evolve as research and practice guide School Readiness Programs

Proposed "RFF Launch" Timeline

- Stage 1** RFF out August 2001
- App due Oct 15; start Nov 2001
- App due Dec 31; start Feb 2002
- Intent to Participate-December 2001
- Stage 2** RFF out December 2001
- and App due May 15; start July 2002
- on Quarterly application process to June 2003

Technical Assistance and Evaluation Recommendations

**Design and Policy Recommendations for
Technical Assistance and for Evaluation
are provided as separate agenda items.**

Next Steps

- CCFC reviews/approves funds for School Readiness Programs; authorizes release of RFF and selection of sites
- Review and discuss implementation resources and strategies with School Readiness Advisory Committee
- Release Stage 1 RFF

Next Steps

- **RFF Information Meetings for County Commissions and Local Partners (August)**
- **Develop & Release RFP for Evaluation Contractor**
- **Develop & Implement Plans for TA**

Next Steps

Media/Public Relations Support:

- **Media Launch for Stage 1: State and County**
- **County Commission Public Information ToolKit (beginning in July) plus County Media Support**
- **Information on these and other School Readiness media/public relations efforts to be presented at future meeting**